will be ensured through the proposal on interlinking of rivers; and

(b) the sepcific plan, if any, on Brahmaputra under this national project showing benefits to be derived by Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Interlinking of rivers under National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared by Central Government envisages construction of storage dams. The storage dams reduce the saverity of floods and flood damages considerably. As per preliminary studies done by National Water Development Agency (NWDA), the flood peaks are estimated to be reduced by about 20—30% in Brahmaputra basin.

(b) Under the NPP, Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga link project has been identified for preparation of Feasibility Report. As per the preliminary studies done by NWDA, irrigation benefits to the extent of 2.08 lakh hectare to Assam State in the districts of Goalpar, Dhubri, Kokrajhar and Barpeta is envisaged under the link.

Irrigation projects in Maharashtra

†2314. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the irrigation projects in the State of Maharashtra which got foreign assistance;

(b) the quantum of foreign assistance received during the last three years, plan-wise;

(c) the quantum of amount spent on the irrigation projects in the State during the said period;

(d) the number of irrigation proposal pending with Government and the reasons therefor; and

(e) by when, the said proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Two minor irrigation projects, namely, Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project with

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

German assistance and Saline Land Reclamation Project-II with assistance from European Economic Commission (EEC) are under implementation in the State. The details of foreign assistance received during last three years under these projects are as under:

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Name of the Project	Foreign Assistance received during		
1.	Maharashtra Minor Irrigation Project	2000-01 0.00	2001-02 0.00	2002-03 1.74
2.	Saline Land Reclamation Project-II	0.00	5.19	0.00

(c) An amount of Rs. 4368.94 crore, Rs. 2597.26 crore and Rs. 1347.30 crore (tentative) has been spent on the irrigation projects of Maharashtra during the years 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03 respectively.

(d) At present, three irrigation projects of Maharashtra, namely, Sangola Branch Canal, Talamba Irrigation Project and Lendi Irrigation Project are under various stages of appraisal in Central Water Commission under the Ministry of Water Resources.

(e) The approval of the project proposals depends upon the promptness with which the State Government complies with the observations of the Central Appraisal Agencies.

Irrigation projects for Chhattisgarh

2315. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposals from the Government of Chhattisgarh for various irrigation projects to be implemented in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Government have given approval of the various irrigation projects as per the said proposals; and

(d) if so, the amount of funds approved by Government for these projects; and if not, the reasons therefor?